

Mineral Industry Surveys

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ALUMINUM IN JANUARY 2006

Domestic primary aluminum production in January 2006 was 196,620 metric tons (t), according to the U.S. Geological Survey. The average daily production rate was 6,343 t, 5% lower than that of the previous month and 6% below the rate for January 2005. The monthly average U.S. market price of primary aluminum ingot increased to \$1.118 per pound in January 2006 from \$1.061 per pound in December 2005, according to Platts Metals Week. The American Metal Market buying price range for aluminum used beverage cans (UBCs) rose steadily throughout January. The buying price began the month at 74–76 cents per pound. On January 4, the price range increased to 76–78 cents per pound; on January 11, it increased to 78–80 cents per pound; on January 18, it increased to 82–84 cents per pound; on January 24, it increased to 84–86 cents per pound; and on January 31, the price range reached 87–88 cents per pound.

2005 U.S. Trade

Total imports for consumption of aluminum in 2005 increased 13% compared with those of 2004. Imports of metal and alloys and of semifabricated materials increased 13% and 27%, respectively; imports of scrap, however, decreased 10% compared with those of 2004. Canada remained the leading shipper of aluminum materials to the United States, supplying

about one-half of total U.S. imports in 2005. Russia followed a distant second, supplying 17% of the 2005 imports.

Total aluminum exports in 2005 increased 30% compared with those of 2004. Exports were higher in all three categories detailed in table 7 and were led by a 65% increase in exports of aluminum scrap. Exports of metal and alloys increased 10%, and exports of semifabricated materials increased 11% compared with those for 2004. Canada, China, and Mexico were the major recipients of U.S. aluminum materials, accounting for almost 80% of total U.S. exports in 2005. Mexico was the leading recipient of metal and alloys (56%); Canada was the leading recipient of semifabricated materials (51%); and China was the leading recipient of aluminum scrap exports in 2005 (53%).

Update

The monthly average U.S. market price of primary aluminum increased in February 2006 to \$1.169 per pound. The American Metal Market buying price range for aluminum UBCs continued to rise during the first week of February, increasing to 89–91 cents per pound on February 3 and to 90–92 cents per pound on February 7. On February 14, the price range fell to 85–87 cents per pound and on February 21, it plummeted to 78–80 cents per pound before rebounding slightly on February 28 to 80–81 cents per pound.

TABLE 1
COMPONENTS OF ALUMINUM SUPPLY¹

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Primary production	Secondary recovery ²			Imports for consumption			Total new supply ³	Total stocks, end of period ⁴
		New	Old	Total	Metals and alloys, crude	Plates, sheets, bars, etc.	Total		
2005 ^P	2,481	1,900	1,120	3,020	3,660	1,190	4,850	10,400	1,430
2005:									
January	209	163	95	258	334	90	425	892	1,510
February	191	157	91	248	289	97	386	825	1,450
March	214	171	96	267	262	105	367	847	1,480
April	211	162	95	257	372	104	476	943	1,500
May	214	159	98	257	372	104	476	947	1,520
June	206	153	96	249	324	107	431	886	1,500
July	210	170	96	267	324	104	428	904	1,550
August	208	167	96	262	264	110	374	845	1,510
September	199	157	91	248	282	97	379	827	1,590
October	207	151	95	246	298	94	393	846	1,550
November	204	151	84	236	240	91	330	770	1,440
December	208	143	82	225	299	89	388	821	1,430
2006:									
January	197	159	87	246	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

^PPreliminary. NA Not available.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits, except "Primary production"; may not add to totals shown.

²Metallic recovery from purchased, tolled, or imported scrap, expanded for full coverage of industry.

³Primary production, secondary recovery, and imports for consumption.

⁴Inventory levels reflect total for both U.S. and Canadian producers; data from the Aluminum Association Inc.

TABLE 2
ESTIMATED FULL COVERAGE CONSUMPTION OF AND METALLIC RECOVERY FROM
PURCHASED NEW AND OLD ALUMINUM SCRAP¹

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Secondary smelters		Integrated aluminum companies		Independent mill fabricators		Foundries		Other consumers		Total	
	Con-sump-tion	Metal recovery	Con-sump-tion	Metal recovery	Con-sump-tion	Metal recovery	Con-sump-tion	Metal recovery	Con-sump-tion	Metal recovery	Con-sump-tion	Metal recovery
2005 ^P	1,740	1,260	812	722	1,010	943	98	87	6	6	3,660	3,020
2005:												
January	147	106	64	57	93	87	9	8	(2)	(2)	313	258
February	146	105	63	56	84	79	8	7	1	1	301	248
March	150	108	67	60	97	91	8	7	1	1	323	267
April	146	106	66	59	90	84	8	7	1	1	311	257
May	151	109	69	61	85	80	8	7	1	1	313	257
June	138	103	67	60	84	79	9	8	1	1	299	249
July	141	102	92	83	79	74	8	7	1	1	321	267
August	151	109	77	69	82	77	8	7	(2)	(2)	319	262
September	148	107	65	58	80	75	8	7	(2)	(2)	302	248
October	154	112	55	49	83	78	8	7	(2)	(2)	302	246
November	138	101	62	55	77	72	8	7	(2)	(2)	285	236
December	129	93	63	56	74	69	8	7	(2)	(2)	274	225
2006:												
January	138	101	66	59	84	79	8	7	(2)	(2)	297	246

^PPreliminary.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Less than ½ unit.

TABLE 3
CONSUMPTION OF AND RECOVERY FROM PURCHASED
NEW AND OLD ALUMINUM SCRAP IN JANUARY 2006¹

(Metric tons)

	Consumption		Calculated metallic recovery	
	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage
Secondary smelters	115,000	138,000	84,200	101,000
Integrated aluminum companies	65,900	65,900	58,800	58,800
Independent mill fabricators	70,300	84,300	65,800	78,900
Foundries	6,630	7,950	5,830	6,990
Other consumers	16	19	16	19
Total	258,000	297,000	215,000	246,000

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

TABLE 4
PURCHASED AND TOLL-TREATED ALUMINUM-BASE SCRAP
AND SWEATED PIG IN JANUARY 2006¹

(Metric tons)

	January			
	Stocks, opening	Net receipts ²	Melted or consumed	Stocks, closing
New scrap:				
Extrusion	25,400 ^r	69,600	68,200	26,800
Can stock clippings	2,100 ^r	17,600	19,000	647
Other wrought sheet/clippings	5,600 ^r	26,100	26,000	5,680
Casting	1,740	6,840	7,040	1,550
Borings and turnings	8,050	11,800	12,100	7,830
Dross and skimmings	4,380	34,700	35,000	4,100
Total new scrap	47,300 ^r	167,000	167,000	46,600
Old scrap:				
Used castings	5,810	14,900	15,000	5,720
Used extrusion	137	295	295	137
Used cans (shredded, loose, baled)	1,110 ^r	56,800	56,500	1,390
Other wrought products	4,080	6,510	6,510	4,080
Fragmentized shredder (auto shredder)	3,840	11,400	11,900	3,410
Total old scrap	15,000	89,900	90,100	14,700
Sweated pig	290	760	748	302
Total all classes	62,500 ^r	257,000	258,000	61,700

^rRevised.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Includes data on imported aluminum-base scrap.

TABLE 5
ALUMINUM ALLOYS PRODUCED AT SECONDARY SMELTERS
IN THE UNITED STATES FOR 2006^{1,2}

(Metric tons)

	January			
	Stocks, opening	Production	Net shipments	Stocks, closing
Die-cast alloys:				
13% Si, 360, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	5,450	1,160	1,210	5,390
380 and variations	3,880	14,900	16,000	2,790
Sand and permanent mold:				
95/5 Al-Si, 356, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	1,010	1,830	1,830	1,010
No. 319 and variations	2,570	5,290	5,730	2,130
F-132 alloy and variations	900	1,750	1,910	739
Al-Zn alloys	97	168	163	102
Al-Si alloys (0.6% to 2.0% Cu)	39	46	46	39
Al-Cu alloys (1.5% Si, max.)	45	325	325	45
Other ³	5,500 ^r	6,010	5,940	5,570
Wrought alloys:				
Extrusion billets	9,400 ^r	21,100	21,300	9,240
Total all alloys	28,900 ^r	52,600	54,400	27,100
Less:				
Primary aluminum consumed	XX	11,800	XX	XX
Primary silicon consumed	XX	2,290	XX	XX
Other alloying ingredients consumed	XX	500	XX	XX
Net metallic recovery from aluminum scrap and sweated pig consumed in production of secondary aluminum ingot ⁴	XX	38,000	XX	XX

^rRevised. XX Not applicable.

¹Excludes integrated aluminum companies.

²Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

³Includes alloys No. 12, Al-Mg, Al-Si-Cu-Ni, aluminum-base hardeners, variations of these alloys, plus other aluminum alloys.

⁴No allowance made for melt-loss of primary aluminum and alloying ingredients.

TABLE 6
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ALUMINUM IN DECEMBER 2005¹

(Metric tons)

Country	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	December	January- December	December	January- December	December	January- December	December	January- December
Argentina	4,090	65,600	7	2,980	--	--	4,100	68,600
Australia	1,560	63,200	7	134	19	1,300	1,590	64,600
Bahrain	4,490	22,700	965	15,500	--	--	5,450	38,200
Belgium	18	36	986	13,100	--	28	1,000	13,200
Brazil	26,300	194,000	1,690	34,200	--	126	28,000	228,000
Canada	165,000	1,920,000	37,400	514,000	24,100	310,000	226,000	2,740,000
China	2,480	68,200	10,200	121,000	--	247	12,700	190,000
France	69	789	300	6,340	44	99	413	7,220
Germany	342	2,400	10,000	114,000	9	334	10,400	116,000
Hungary	--	--	100	4,350	--	--	100	4,350
Italy	147	757	322	2,860	--	--	469	3,620
Japan	21	536	1,920	20,400	38	521	1,980	21,500
Korea, Republic of	5	87	179	2,810	--	--	184	2,900
Mexico	97	97	1,850	22,400	7,160	105,000	9,100	127,000
Netherlands	51	436	179	2,660	79	79	308	3,170
Norway	--	4,060	(2)	111	--	2	(2)	4,180
Russia	61,900	819,000	3,400	55,100	64	6,830	65,400	880,000
South Africa	4,030	77,700	4,900	52,100	--	--	8,930	130,000
Spain	15	79	111	3,100	--	106	127	3,280
Sweden	--	1,310	345	3,890	--	--	345	5,200
Switzerland	96	816	379	4,450	--	--	475	5,260
Tajikistan	--	127,000	--	--	--	--	--	127,000
United Arab Emirates	11,000	79,100	--	576	--	718	11,000	80,400
United Kingdom	84	22,600	330	7,410	400	2,470	814	32,500
Venezuela	15,200	145,000	336	11,200	316	8,950	15,900	165,000
Other	2,260	47,100	13,400	177,000	2,950	44,700	18,600	269,000
Total	299,000	3,660,000	89,200	1,190,000	35,200	482,000	424,000	5,330,000

-- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 7
U.S. EXPORTS OF ALUMINUM IN DECEMBER 2005¹

(Metric tons)

Country or territory	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	December	January- December	December	January- December	December	January- December	December	January- December
Australia	86	579	124	1,560	(2)	24	210	2,160
Azerbaijan	--	--	--	2	--	--	--	2
Belgium	158	781	859	8,230	20	244	1,040	9,260
Brazil	20	226	464	8,070	121	1,620	605	9,920
Canada	8,550	128,000	32,700	487,000	10,600	146,000	51,900	761,000
China	49	491	2,940	41,600	55,200	581,000	58,200	623,000
Czech Republic	--	--	5	273	--	--	5	273
Dominican Republic	9	24	20	539	--	--	30	563
France	(2)	838	922	9,100	--	48	922	9,990
Germany	28	859	805	8,400	--	306	833	9,570
Hong Kong	25	236	681	7,480	1,500	11,200	2,210	18,900
India	2	183	92	627	507	9,000	601	9,810
Israel	40	703	272	2,850	--	--	313	3,550
Italy	2	177	272	3,170	(2)	(2)	273	3,350
Japan	360	4,520	1,190	10,700	3,930	34,900	5,480	50,100
Korea, Republic of	102	1,070	951	12,800	10,200	131,000	11,300	145,000
Malaysia	3	35	126	5,870	400	1,710	529	7,610
Mexico	13,900	184,000	21,000	232,000	9,250	75,200	44,100	490,000
Netherlands	10	131	57	685	64	103	131	919
Russia	--	154	5	65	--	26	5	245
Saudi Arabia	--	8	2,520	31,100	--	--	2,520	31,100
Singapore	12	356	416	2,490	19	658	447	3,510
Spain	2	78	174	1,410	--	196	176	1,680
Sweden	--	9	22	380	(2)	(2)	22	389
Taiwan	40	360	795	9,320	3,290	48,400	4,120	58,100
Thailand	19	402	940	7,950	328	5,500	1,290	13,800
Ukraine	--	--	--	1	--	--	--	1
United Kingdom	42	329	1,660	17,300	41	469	1,740	18,100
Venezuela	--	12	62	1,790	--	21	62	1,820
Other	481	5,090	3,570	38,700	3,700	39,300	7,750	83,200
Total	23,900	329,000	73,700	951,000	99,200	1,090,000	197,000	2,370,000

-- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.